



Volume 4, Issue 1

Ouranophantor

January 2021

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



Church Office:

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Telephone: 312-243-3738

Phone: 847-558-9849

Office Fax: 312-243-7961

email: Fr.dimitri.c.tobias@gmail.com

Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy
Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 6:30 a.m.
Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Friday, January 1 — St. Basil the Great Feast Day
+ Orthros 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.

Tuesday, January 5 — Eve of Theophany
+ Orthros 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 6 — Theophany
+ Orthros 8:30 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m.

We welcome new families to our parish!

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese. Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

40-Day Blessings:



Baptisms:



Weddings:



Chrismations:

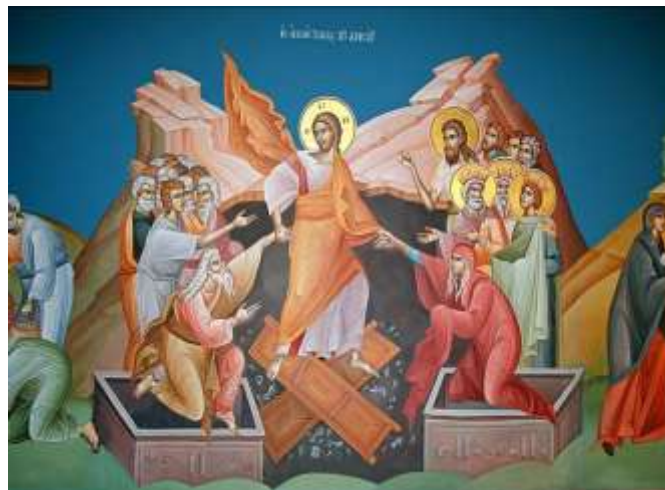


December 12, 2020

Spyridon Cole

Godparent: Gus Drugas

Funerals:



Father Dimitri's Message



My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

The year of 2020 will certainly be long remembered as perhaps the most difficult and painful year of a generation. Between pandemic, social unrest, a country at war with itself, a populace that could not believe anything coming from their leaders of either political stripe, we witnessed ugliness. But I would like to look at the fact that we also witnessed extreme acts of kindness, extreme generosity to those in need, and an increased spiritual renaissance for many.

When I was in the parish of Holy Trinity in Sioux City, IA, I learned that their stewardship committee had pushed in the year 2010 a question: Where will we be in ten years? Where will we be in 2020? It was a clever exercise in trying to revitalize the parish to see what needed to change and what needed to be honed so that their beloved church would not only still stand in

ten years, but would be thriving and healthy.

For those of us with vision impairments, when we go to the optometrist we sit down and the doctor tests both of our eyes to see if there exist any problems. Our eyes are tested for macular degeneration, glaucoma, and other issues that not only impair vision, but can lead to the destruction of the eye. To achieve the goal of 20/20 vision, we need to first see what is wrong, and then we can take corrective measures through either contacts, glasses, or surgery.

For our parish, I had hoped in 2019 that 2020 would be a year of reflection and achieving a greater vision. It was for this reason that our beloved Parish Council formed the vision statement of St. Basil to be "A community connecting to Christ and one another through our Orthodox faith." But then the pandemic hit, and everything changed.

We were confronted with a reality none of us considered possible. Who among us had asked what we would do if we were not able to go to church anymore? How would that affect us? How would we cope? What would this say about our personal identity and how we interact with our Savior?



In essence, we all got an immensely powerful look into who we are and where our faith lands on our priority list. For some, this caused individuals to sink into a nihilistic funk in which the current worldly matters took on an importance they might not have normally. For others, these blessed individuals saw the state of their souls and reflected deeply.

In the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, our Lord Jesus Christ says, "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your

whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"

We were given the opportunity to see how great the darkness is within ourselves individually and as a people. For many, we were given that moment for 20/20 vision into what we lack and where we must now go. We have now been able to understand the deficiencies in our vision and we can now put on the corrective lenses of truth to realize that even though the pandemic is soon to end, perhaps earlier than many of us dreamed possible, we cannot go back to the way things were before. We cannot return to the darkness of our previous lives and the previous world that ushered in the pandemic and division between us.

No, now is the time to look forward with clearer vision. We must adopt the vision of Joshua 24:15.

"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."



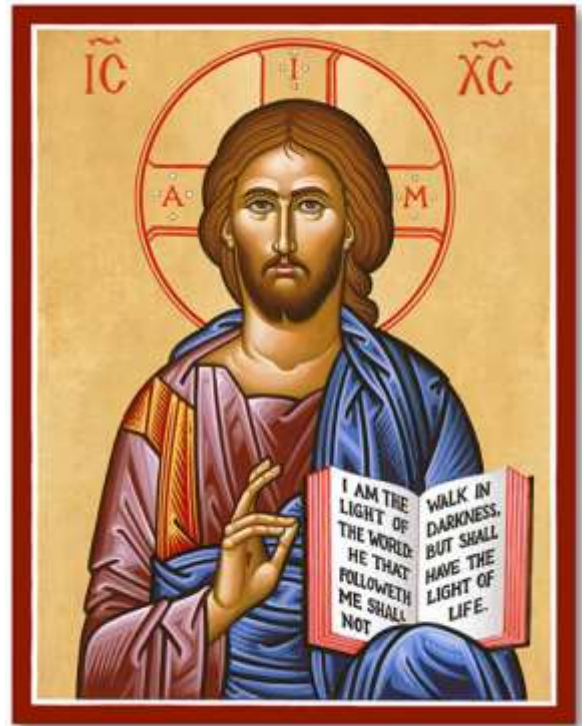
The community of St. Basil will lead the way with our own statement of connecting to Christ and one another through our Orthodox faith. We will walk by this, serve by this, and live by this. We will unite together in Christ and to our brothers and sisters near and far. We will become a stronger, more beautiful family. And we will accomplish this through our Orthodox faith.

Our Lord descended into the darkness of hell to bring us to His Light and to make us that light as well. "YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!" (Matthew 5:14).

I remain your servant in Christ,

+ Fr. Dimitry

Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*



HOUSE BLESSINGS

Please contact church office for House Blessing protocols and scheduling details.

What I need at your house or business:



- + **A list of the Orthodox and Non-Orthodox who consider your house home**
- + **A list of all the employees at your place of business**



- + **An icon to pray towards (please let me know which way is east in your home or business)**



- + **A bowl of water**



- + **Basil**

Parish Council Update

By Jayme Schenk

Greetings to all St. Basil Parishioners,

We hope everyone is well and staying safe, and that even if you haven't been able to return to St. Basil, that you are enjoying our livestreams on Facebook and You Tube.

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank our outgoing Parish Council member, Kalliope Dimitrakopoulos Osborne. We thank her for all of her hard work, and hope to see her back on Parish Council in the future. We also welcome for a two-year term the following parishioners to Parish Council. Tom Bezanes, Venus Campanelli, Pat Patsis-Cole, Themis Frangos, Harry Michas, Anthony Rouches, Christine Rousakis, Jayme Schenk.

We also want to share with everyone that we have now paid off our mortgage completely with the use of funds generously donated by Charles Condes, and approved at the General Assembly. We are so grateful, and for the first time in over 30 years, St. Basil is debt free!

Wishing everyone a very safe, healthy, and Happy New Year. Χρόνια πολλά

Jayme Schenk
Parish Council President



Stewardship Update



Registration for 2021 has begun. Stewardship packets were sent out in the mail. If you did not receive your packet, please reach out to the church office. You can sign up at <http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/stewardship/or> pick up a pamphlet at the pangari. We are looking forward to an exciting and prosperous 2021.

2021 Snapshot (as of December 28, 2020)

<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Collected</u>
20	\$40,590	\$3,180

2020 Snapshot (as of December 28, 2020)

<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Collected</u>
158	\$213,638	\$208,550

Saint Basil Stewardship Ministry wants to hear from you. Have any questions, comments, ideas, or feedback? Let us know how we're doing so that we can better serve our church.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)

Philoptochos Update

By Nichole Kourvas Drimonas

Happy New Year!

This mountain of warm coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and other clothing was delivered to the Pacific Garden Mission in early December. The mission expressed their thanks for your donations. Within a week, they distributed all the clothes to the homeless men and women they shelter 365 nights a year.

Thanks to you, someone who had a coat not much better than a rag is warm tonight.

January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Over the past several years, our National Philoptochos has worked to educate and develop awareness of the problem of human trafficking. Last year we created a partnership with Covenant House International to assist various agencies in fighting human trafficking. One of our main goals is to raise awareness and opposition to human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking. If you or someone you know is a victim, please call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at (888) 373-7888.

Nichole Kourvas Drimonas
President, St. Basil Philoptochos



Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

The St. Basil Sunday School Christmas Pageant was a success. A special thanks to Fr. Dimitri, teachers, students, and families who participated. You can find the Virtual Christmas Pageant on the St. Basil Chicago website. Please check it out.

Sunday School is offering both in person and on-line sessions. To receive instruction, students need to be registered for the St. Basil Sunday School program. Sunday School students grades K-4th can access their Sunday School lessons in the Bitmoji virtual classroom on the St. Basil website. Students in 5th-7th may also access lessons in the Bitmoji through Zoom meets. The older grades meet virtually via Zoom, and class has been a great success. A special thanks to our teachers for their hard work and dedication. The Bitmoji classrooms, Zoom meets, and lessons are outstanding. Great job to The St. Basil Sunday School team!

On behalf of our St. Basil Sunday School team, we would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Class will resume January 10, 2021.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Georgopoulos at jenspalla75@sbcglobal.net.



Seeing Christ in the “Least of These” -- Tenth Year of Angel Tree Program

By Pat and Steve Cole

For the tenth year now, St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church and its Prison Ministry have responded to Jesus’s instruction to provide for the “least of these” by providing for the families of incarcerated men and women through the Angel Tree program.



Something new in this year’s program was that half of the families served came to St. Basil Church to pick up the presents for their children and the \$50 Jewel Foods gift card.

Parishioners’ generosity was particularly strong this year. An example of how that generosity came through was when Valerie C., the mother of a family we had served for the last four years, called Prison Ministry coordinator Pat Cole. It was a day after the last gifts were brought to the church for sorting and delivery. The father of the children had been unable to apply for Angel Tree this year due to the Covid lockdown at his facility. Valerie told Pat it was going to be a difficult Christmas this year, especially because they had just taken in a homeless and disabled teenager that her children had been bringing food to at the neighborhood park for weeks. The sixteen-year-old boy had nothing more than the clothes on his back. Pat and her husband, Steve, knew that because of the substantial monetary donations made to the Prison Ministry this Christmas season they could buy Target gift cards for each of Valerie’s four children and a winter coat, a pair of jeans, and a sweatshirt for the new foster child. When Valerie came to pick up the gifts, the light in her eyes reflected the love and gratitude in her heart.

The Prison Ministry is deeply grateful to all who brought gifts and brought them into the church, all who bought gifts from the Virtual (online) Angel Tree website, and all who contributed money toward grocery gift cards and books for the inmate correspondence program. A special thanks to Leia Asimacopoulos, Corey Kennelly, Marina Arvanitis, and Ed Franklin for helping to sort and deliver gifts.



Philoptochos: Operation Classroom Christmas Update

In the fall, Philoptochos launched its Operation Classroom project with Dett School, filling backpacks for kindergarten students with school supplies ranging from earbuds for remote learning to pencils, markers, and notebooks.

Now, for Christmas, we put together gift bags for the students. We filled 18 bags with 5 books, a coloring book, crayons, 2 pairs of socks, a toothbrush, a Covid mask, Play-Doh, candy canes, and card games in each bag. We brought the bags to the school on December 17, and parents picked them up the next day.

To all who contributed to the effort, thank you for making a difference in these children's lives. Kindergarten teacher Lindsay Marshall and Principal Heather Hampton are grateful for your support. Philoptochos will look for ways to deepen our relationship with the school as the school year progresses. Our plan is to be a part of these kindergartners' lives as they progress through Dett School in the coming years.





Theophany Liturgical Schedule



Tuesday, January 5

Royal Hours of Theophany

Hours 8:30 a.m.

Eve of Theophany with Blessing of Waters

Vespertal Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 6

Theophany with Blessing of Waters

Orthros 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



St. Basil
Greek Orthodox Church
of Chicago, Illinois



When: Tuesday Mornings –
10:00 am – 11:00 am

Where: ONLINE VIA

Bible Study
Covid-19
Fall: Acts of
the Apostles



Participate in a Zoom Meeting Watch on Facebook Live and ask questions in the comments

ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ONLINE
ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**THE LADDER OF
DIVINE ASCENT**

ACQUIRE THE HEAVENLY VIRTUES AND LOVE GOD MORE FULLY

November 11 - April 14

Join us online each week

Wednesday Evenings 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Zoom Classroom

<https://zoom.us/j/97901297537>

Meeting ID: 979 0129 7537

Read the Text Online by [Clicking this Link](#)



Buying more online these days?



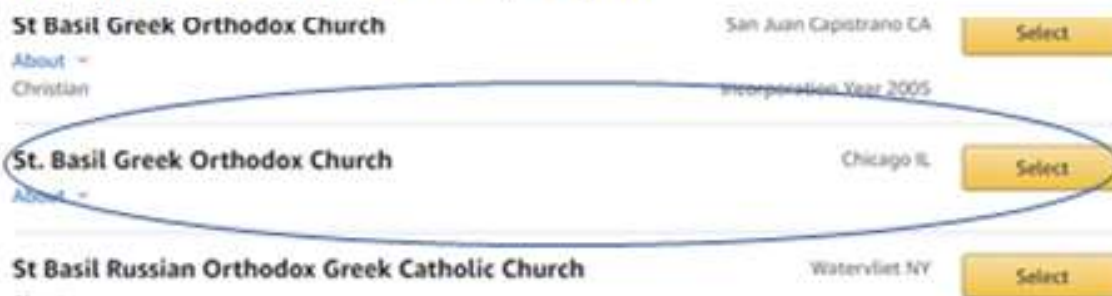
St. Basil can benefit from

Imagine if all your purchases on Amazon.com resulted in Amazon making a contribution to St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church.

The Amazon Smile program does just that, giving 0.5% of the purchase price of each expenditure.

Here's how you can make that happen:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?q=St.+Basil+Greek+Orthodox+Church>
2. Sign into Amazon Smile with your same username and password, as you would to Amazon.
3. Select St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago IL



4. Whenever purchasing from Amazon, make sure you buy your items from [Smile Amazon.Com](https://smile.amazon.com) (you will not need to select your charity again when you sign in).

Encourage your friends and family to make St. Basil Church their charity of choice.

For more information call Vicky Crosby at the St. Basil office, 312-243-3738 or Steve Cole, 312-493-4063.

January 1, The Circumcision of Christ & St. Basil the Great



Since the Mosaic Law commands that if a woman give birth to a male child, he should be circumcised in the foreskin of his flesh on the eighth day (Lev. 12:2-3), on this, the eighth day from His Nativity, our Saviour accepted the circumcision commanded by the Law. According to the command of the Angel, He received the Name which is above every name: JESUS, which means "Saviour" (Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:31 and 2:21).

Apolytikion in the First Tone

Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself without change, O greatly-compassionate Master, though being God by nature; fulfilling the Law, Thou willingly receivest circumcision in the flesh, that Thou mightest end the shadow and roll away the veil of our sinful passions. Glory be to Thy goodness unto us. Glory be to Thy compassion. Glory, O Word, to Thine inexpressible condescension.

Kontakion in the Third Tone

Now the Lord of all that is doth undergo circumcision, in His goodness cutting off the sins and failings of mortals. He this day doth give salvation unto the whole world; and the hierarch and bright daystar of the Creator now rejoiceth in the highest, Basil the wise and divine initiate of Christ.

Saint Basil the Great was born about the end of the year 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents' names were Basil and Emily. His mother Emily (commemorated July 19) and his grandmother Macrina (Jan. 14) are Saints of the Church, together with all his brothers and sisters: Macrina, his elder sister (July 19), Gregory of Nyssa (Jan. 10), Peter of Sebastia (Jan. 9), and Naucrati. Basil studied in Constantinople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian." Through the good influence of his sister Macrina (see July 19), he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.

About the year 370, when the bishop of his country reposed, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, who were of one mind with the Arians, tried with threats of exile and of torments to bend the saint to their own confession, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia, and preserved it from heresy when Arianism was at its strongest. But he set all their malice at nought, and in his willingness to give himself up to every suffering for the sake of the faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the saint, "you have never met a bishop before." The Emperor Valens himself was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell gravely sick, he asked Saint Basil to pray for him. The saint promised that his son would be restored if Valens agreed to have him baptized by the Orthodox; Valens agreed, Basil prayed, and the son was restored. But afterwards the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after. Later, Valens, persuaded by his counsellors, decided to send the saint into exile because he would not accept the Arians into communion; but his pen broke when he was signing the edict of banishment. He tried a second time and a third, but the same thing happened, so that the Emperor was filled with dread, and tore up the document, and Basil was not banished. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labours, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January, in 379. at the age of forty-nine.

His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich are these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation (see his "Hexaemeron") and of the Holy Trinity (see "On the Holy Spirit"). Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honoured as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great."

Saint Basil is also celebrated on January 30 with Saint Gregory the Theologian and Saint John Chrysostom.

Apolytikion in the First Tone

Your voice resounded throughout the world that received your word by which, in godly manner, you taught dogma, clarified the nature of beings, and set in order the character of people. Venerable father, Royal Priesthood, intercede to Christ God to grant us great mercy.

Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

For the Church art thou in truth a firm foundation, granting an inviolate lordship unto all mortal men and sealing it with what thou hast taught, O righteous Basil, revealer of heavenly things.

January 6, Theophany



About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvellous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Apolytikion in the First Tone

Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved, and the Spirit, in the guise of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

January 7, Synaxis of the Forerunner



Today we celebrate the Synaxis in honour of the most sacred Forerunner, since he ministered at the Mystery of the Divine Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Apolytikion in the Second Tone

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since thou was granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Second Tone

The Jordan accepted Your presence in the flesh and reversed its course in fear. John, fulfilling the spiritual ministry, fell back in awe. The ranks of Angels, seeing You in the flesh, baptized in the river, were amazed, and all who were in darkness were filled with light, praising You who appeared and enlightened all

January 17, St. Anthony



Saint Anthony, the Father of monks, was born in Egypt in 251 of pious parents who departed this life while he was yet young. On hearing the words of the Gospel: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:21), he immediately put it into action. Distributing to the poor all he had, and fleeing from all the turmoil of the world, he departed to the desert. The manifold temptations he endured continually for the span of twenty years are incredible. His ascetic struggles by day and by night, whereby he mortified the uprisings of the passions and attained to the height of dispassion, surpass the bounds of nature; and the report of his deeds of virtue drew such a multitude to follow him that the desert was transformed into a city, while he became, so to speak, the governor, lawgiver, and master-trainer of all the citizens of this newly-formed city.

The cities of the world also enjoyed the fruit of his virtue. When the Christians were being persecuted and put to death under Maximinus in 312, he hastened to their aid and consolation. When the Church was troubled by the Arians, he went with zeal to Alexandria in 335 and struggled against them in behalf of Orthodoxy. During this time, by the grace of his words, he also turned many unbelievers to Christ.

Saint Anthony began his ascetic life outside his village of Coma in Upper Egypt, studying the ways of the ascetics and holy men there, and perfecting himself in the virtues of each until he surpassed them all.

Desiring to increase his labors, he departed into the desert, and finding an abandoned fortress in the mountain, he made his dwelling in it, training himself in extreme fasting, unceasing prayer, and fierce conflicts with the demons. Here he remained, as mentioned above, about twenty years. Saint Athanasius the Great, who knew him personally and wrote his life, says that he came forth from that fortress "initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God." Afterwards, because of the press of the faithful, who deprived him of his solitude, he was enlightened by God to journey with certain Bedouins, until he came to a mountain in the desert near the Red Sea, where he passed the remaining part of his life.

Saint Athanasius says of him that "his countenance had a great and wonderful grace. This gift also he had from the Saviour. For if he were present in a great company of monks, and any one who did not know him previously wished to see him, immediately coming forward he passed by the rest, and hurried to Anthony, as though attracted by his appearance. Yet neither in height nor breadth was he conspicuous above others, but in the serenity of his manner and the purity of his soul." So Passing his life, and becoming an example of virtue and a rule for monastics, he reposed on January 17 in the year 356, having lived altogether some 105 years.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

O Father Anthony, you imitated the zealous Elijah. You followed the straight paths of the Baptist and became a desert dweller. By prayer you confirmed the universe. Wherefore, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion in the Second Tone

Forsaking the uproars of life O venerable one, you completed your life in quiet, fully imitating the Baptist. Therefore, we honor you with him, O Anthony, Father of Fathers.

January 18, Ss. Athanasios and Cyril

In the half-century after the First Ecumenical Council held in Nicea in 325, if there was one man whom the Arians feared and hated more intensely than any other, as being able to lay bare the whole error of their teaching, and to marshal, even from exile or hiding, the beleaguered forces of the



Orthodox, it was Saint Athanasios the Great. This blazing lamp of Orthodoxy, which imperial power and heretics' plots could not quench when he shone upon the lampstand, nor find when he was hid by the people and monks of Egypt, was born in Alexandria about the year 296. He received an excellent training in Greek letters and especially in the sacred Scriptures, of which he shows an exceptional knowledge in his writings. Even as a young man he had a remarkable depth of theological understanding; he was only about twenty years old when he wrote his treatise "On the Incarnation." Saint Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, brought him up in piety, ordained him his deacon, and after deposing Arius for his blasphemy against the Divinity of the Son of God, took Athanasios to the First Council in Nicea in 325. Saint Athanasios was to spend the remainder of his life laboring in defense of this Holy Council. In 326, before his death, Alexander appointed Athanasios his successor.

In 325, Arius had been condemned by the Council of Nicea; yet through his hypocritical confession of Orthodox belief, Saint Constantine the Great was persuaded by Arius's supporters that he should be received back into the communion of the Church. But Athanasios, knowing well the perverseness of his mind, and the disease of heresy lurking in his heart, refused communion with Arius. The heresiarch's followers then began framing false charges against Athanasios. Finally Saint Constantine the Great, misled by grave charges of the Saint's misconduct (which were completely false), had him exiled to Tiberius (Treves) in Gaul in 336. When Saint Constantine was succeeded by his three sons Constantine II, Constans, and Constantius, in 337, Saint Athanasios returned to Alexandria in triumph. But his enemies found an ally in Constantius, Emperor of the East, and he spent a second exile in Rome. It was ended when Constans prevailed with threats upon his brother Constantius to restore Athanasios (see also Nov.

6). For ten years Saint Athanasios strengthened Orthodoxy throughout Egypt, visiting the whole country and encouraging all: clergy, monastics, and lay folk, being loved by all as a father. After Constans's death in 350, Constantius became sole Emperor, and Athanasios was again in danger. On the evening of February 8, 356, General Syrianus with more than five thousand soldiers surrounded the church in which Athanasios was serving, and broke open the doors. Athanasios's clergy begged him to leave, but the good shepherd commanded that all the flock should withdraw first; and only when he was assured of their safety, he also, protected by divine grace, passed through the midst of the soldiers and disappeared into the deserts of Egypt, where for some six years he eluded the soldiers and spies sent after him.

When Julian the Apostate succeeded Constantius in 361, Athanasios returned again, but only for a few months. Because Athanasios had converted many pagans, and the priests of the idols in Egypt wrote to Julian that if Athanasios remained, idolatry would perish in Egypt, the heathen Emperor ordered not Athanasios's exile, but his death. Athanasios took a ship up the Nile. When he learned that his imperial pursuers were following him, he had his men turn back, and as his boat passed that of his pursuers, they asked him if he had seen Athanasios. "He is not far," he answered. After returning to Alexandria for a while, he fled again to the Thebaid until Julian's death in 363. Saint Athanasios suffered his fifth and last exile under Valens in 365, which only lasted four months because Valens, fearing a sedition among the Egyptians for their beloved Archbishop, revoked his edict in February, 366.

The great Athanasios passed the remaining seven years of his life in peace. Of his fifty-seven years as Patriarch, he had spent some seventeen in exiles. Shining from the height of his throne like a radiant evening star, and enlightening the Orthodox with the brilliance of his words for yet a little while, this much-suffering champion inclined toward the sunset of his life, and in the year 373 took his rest from his lengthy sufferings, but not before another luminary of the truth -- Basil the Great -- had risen in the East, being consecrated Archbishop of Caesarea in 370. Besides all of his other achievements, Saint Athanasios wrote the life of Saint Anthony the Great, with whom he spent time in his youth; ordained Saint Frumentius first Bishop of Ethiopia; and in his Paschal Encyclical for the year 367 set forth the books of the Old and New Testaments accepted by the Church as canonical. Saint Gregory the Theologian, in his "Oration On the Great Athanasios", said that he was "Angelic in appearance, more angelic in mind; ... rebuking with the tenderness of a father, praising with the dignity of a ruler ... Everything was harmonious, as an air upon a single lyre, and in the same key; his life, his teaching, his struggles, his dangers, his return, and his conduct after his return ... he treated so mildly and gently those who had injured him, that even they themselves, if I may say so, did not find his restoration distasteful."

Saint Cyril was also from Alexandria, born about the year 376. He was the nephew of Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who also instructed the Saint in his youth. Having first spent much time with the monks in Nitria, he later became the successor to his uncle's throne in 412. In 429, when Cyril heard tidings of the teachings of the new Patriarch of Constantinople, Nestorius, he began attempting through private letters to bring Nestorius to renounce his heretical teaching about the Incarnation. When the heresiarch did not repent, Saint Cyril, together with Pope Celestine of Rome, led the Orthodox opposition to his error. Saint Cyril presided over the Third Ecumenical Council of the 200 Holy Fathers in the year 431, who gathered in Ephesus under Saint Theodosius the Younger. At this Council, by his most wise words, he put to shame and convicted the impious doctrine of Nestorius, who, although he was in town, refused to appear before Cyril. Saint Cyril, besides overthrowing the error of Nestorius, has left to the Church full commentaries on the Gospels of Luke and John. Having shepherded the Church of Christ for thirty-two years, he reposed in 444.

Apolytikion of Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria in the Third Tone

Shining forth with works of Orthodoxy, ye quenched every false belief and teaching and became trophy-bearers and conquerors. And since ye made all things rich and with true piety, greatly adorning the Church with magnificence, Athanasios and wise Cyril, ye both have worthily found Christ God, Who doth grant great mercy unto all.

Kontakion of Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria in the Fourth Tone

O great Hierarchs of piety and brave champions of the Church of Christ, you watch over all who sing, "Save us who in faith honor you, O Compassionate."

January 30, The Three Hierarchs



This common feast of these three teachers was instituted a little before the year 1100, during the reign of the Emperor Alexis I Comnenus, because of a dispute and strife that arose among the notable and virtuous men of that time. Some of them preferred Basil, while others preferred Gregory, and yet others preferred John Chrysostom, quarreling among themselves over which of the three was the greatest. Furthermore, each party, in order to distinguish itself from the others, assumed the name of its preferred Saint; hence, they called themselves Basilians, Gregorians, or Johannites. Desiring to bring an end to the contention, the three Saints appeared together to the saintly John Mavropous, a monk who had been ordained Bishop of Euchaita, a city of Asia Minor, they revealed to him that the glory they have at the throne of God is equal, and told him to compose a common service for the three of them, which he did with great skill and beauty. Saint John of Euchaita (celebrated Oct. 5) is also the composer of the Canon to the Guardian Angel, the Protector of a Man's Life. In his old age, he retired from his episcopal see and again took up the monastic life in a monastery in Constantinople. He reposed during the reign of the aforementioned Emperor Alexis Comnenus (1081-1118).

Apolytikion in the First Tone

The three most great luminaries of the Three-Sun Divinity have illumined all of the world with the rays of doctrines divine and true; they are the sweetly-flowing rivers of wisdom, who with godly knowledge have watered all creation in clear and mighty streams: The great and sacred Basil, and the Theologian, wise Gregory, together with the renowned John, the famed Chrysostom of golden speech. Let us all who love their divinely-wise words come together, honouring them with hymns; for ceaselessly they offer

entreaty for us to the Trinity.

Kontakion in the Second Tone

Receive, O Lord, the Sacred Heralds who preached God, the pinnacle of Teachers, unto the enjoyment of Your riches and rest. You have received their labors and their suffering as being above and beyond all fruitful offering. For You alone glorify Your Saints.

St. Basil — 2020 Stewards

<p>A Chris & Georgia Alemis Robert & Emily Andreou William Angelos Anonymous John & Rebecca Antonoglu Stella Antonoglu +Dr. Christos & Tula Aravanis Konstantinos Arvanitis Marina Arvanitis & Ed Franklin Thomas & Lauren Arvanitis</p> <p>B Gregory & Maria Bairaktaris Theodora Bairaktaris Katy Balabanis Dr. Robert & Dr. Sophia Sarkos-Barnes Tom & Leslie Bezanis Dorothy Bezemes John & Patoula Billiris John & Dr. Christine Bishop Nick & Angie Brinias Cassy Brinkman</p> <p>C John & Rachel Calash John & Venus Campanelli John & Eleni Chioros Chris Christides Paraskevas Christodouloupoulos Dean Christy Ernie & Christine Cochanis Maria Constantinides Constance Cosmas Pam Cosmos Stephan & Patricia Patsis-Cole</p> <p>D Tim & Jenel Damis Anesti & Emily Dhima Matt & Alexis Douglas Petro & Nichole Drimonas Gus Drugas</p> <p>E Sandra Efstathiou</p> <p>F Themis & Angeline Fabiatis Martin & Elaine Fosse Charles & Rosemary Fountas Ioannis Fountas Nicholas & Vicky Fountas Zaharias & Kalliopi Fountas Tony & Georgia Fragale John Frangias Nickoletta Frangias Themis Frangos Tony & Helene Frankos</p> <p>G Nicholas & Jennifer Georgopoulos George Goltos Daniel & Alexia Gould Christina Gountanis Melita Green Kevin & Kathryn Gulley</p>	<p>H Sophia Haritos Arthur & Angie Harris Melanie Hillock William & Catherine Hostettler</p> <p>K Alexis Kaiser Senya Kalpake Andrea Kamilaris Stella Kapetan Aris Kapsopoulos Demetra Karas George & Karen Karas Zarif & Constance Karwandyar Ralli Katsikas Evan & Eleni Katsoulis Jean Katsoulis Nick Katsoulis Peter Katsoulis Dr. Kenneth & Arlene Kehl Corey & Leia Kennelly Anthony & Christina Kidonakis Vana Kikos Harriet Kollias Eleni Kontaloni Ryan & Maria Kanella Koper John & Joanne Koudounis Phyllis Koumantos Vivien Kourous John & Eugenia Kourvas Frank Kuchuris</p> <p>L John & Anna Lambros John & Patty Lemperis Elias Loumakis</p> <p>M Dina Manasses Eleni Manasses Spero Mandakes Chris & Zenaida Maniates Dean & Anastasia Maragos Carl & Natalie Michas Harry & Kathy Michas</p> <p>N Corey & Sophia Newman</p> <p>O Jeffrey & Kalliope Osborne</p> <p>P James & Bess Pabin Demitra Panagopoulos George Panagopoulos Dimos & Angela Panousakis Rhonda Panousakis Sophia Panousakis Emily Papachristou Marcie Papadakis Bette Pappas Lambros & Mary Peroulas Katina Phillips John & Loula Plesiotis Nondas & Angie Plesiotis +Eleni Pontikes John & Carol Pontikes Branislav & Sophia Popovic Dimitrios & Vasiliki Psihogios</p>	<p>R John Regas Suzanne Regas +Vivian Rosenberg Anthony & Christina Rouches +Demetra Rouches Sam & Christine Rousakis Ken & Helene Paspalas-Rubenstein</p> <p>S Josh & Constance Sammartini Irene Santos Jayme Schenk Harold & Cindy Schroeder Emily Sedares Nicholas Senopoulos Bill & Borina Sianis Panagiota Sianis Paul & Pamela Sianis Tom & Eleni Sianis Grigorios & Debra Skourletos Joanna, Skourletos Sam Souleles Angela Sourounis Kenneth & Jennifer Sourounis Stavroula Spyropoulos George & Cynthia Stathopoulos John Stathopoulos George & Anastasia Stefanis Brian & Nicole Steinberg Kathy Stratton</p> <p>T Gerasim & Edith Tikoff Dr. Richard & Angela Tobias Fr. Dimitri & Presvytera Mary Tobias Athena Touloupoulos Nick & Kristen Triandafilou George Tsagaris Maria Tsagaris Anthony Tsenes Sophia Tsilimigras George & Julianna Tziahanas</p> <p>V Catherine Valsamoulis Dee Vergos</p> <p>W Kathy Walstrom Charles & Katherine Webster Francis & Kanella Willsey</p> <p>Z William & Dorothy Zimbrakos Perter Zervakis Thomas & Maria Zipp</p>
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St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for St. Stephen, Arch-deacon and Martyr	28	29 Girls Ministry to Bake Vasilopita 10:00 am Bible Study	30 5:30 pm Paraklesis Online A.R.E. Class 6:30 pm	31 New Year's Eve Hierarchical Great Vespers of the Circumcision and St. Basil the Great 7:00 pm	1 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri New Year's Day Hierarchical Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Circumcision and 8:30 am	2 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
3 11:00 am St. Basil 5-7th Grade Sunday School	4 7:00 pm Parish Council	5 7:30 am Royal Hours of Theophany 8:30 am Vespers of the Eve of Theophany 10:00 am Bible Study	6 8:00 am Orthros & Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of the Waters of Theophany 7:00 pm Great Vespers of the Synaxis of the Forerunner	7 6:30 am Divine Liturgy of the Synaxis of the Forerunner	8 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	9 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
10 11:00 am St. Basil 5-7th Grade Sunday School	11	12	13 5:30 pm Paraklesis Online A.R.E. Class 6:30 pm	14	15 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	16 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
17 11:00 am St. Basil 5-7th Grade Sunday School 7:00 pm Great Vespers of St. Athanasios 7:00 pm Great Vespers for Ss. Athanasios and Cyril (at Aurora parish)	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Divine Liturgy for St. Athanasios	19 10:00 am Bible Study	20 5:30 pm Paraklesis Online A.R.E. Class 6:30 pm	21 6:30 am Divine Liturgy for St. Maximos the Confessor	22 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	23 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
24 11:00 am St. Basil 5-7th Grade Sunday School	25 Divine Liturgy for St. Gregory the Theologian	26 10:00 am Bible Study	27 5:30 pm Paraklesis Online A.R.E. Class 6:30 pm	28	29 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Great Vespers for Three Hierarchs at Ss. Constantine & Helen in Palos Hills, IL 7:00 pm	30 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
31 11:00 am St. Basil 5-7th Grade Sunday School						



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
733 South Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60607